

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

## RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:05 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the chair and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BROWN of Ohio.)

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was gratified to hear the Republicans taking their demand for Social Security cuts off the table. The truth is that they should never have been on the table to begin with.

There is still a significant difference between the two sides but negotiations continue. There is still time left to reach an agreement, and we intend to continue negotiations.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to come in at 11 a.m. tomorrow morning. We will have further announcements, perhaps, at 11 o'clock in the morning. I certainly hope so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

REPORT ON THE TERRORIST  
ATTACK AT BENGHAZI

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I guess the good news is that I am rising today not to speak about the fiscal cliff. What I am speaking about is not good news because it deals with the tragic event that occurred in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, when terrorists took the lives of our Ambassador, Chris Stevens, and three other brave Americans who were serving us there.

I rise today, along with the ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator COLLINS, to submit for the RECORD the report she and I have been working on with our staffs and other members of the committee following those events in Libya. We call this report "Flashing Red: A Special Report On The Terrorist Attack At Benghazi." "Flashing red" is a term that was used in a conversation with us by an official of the State Department, and it could not have been more correct. All the evidence was flashing red that we had put American personnel in Benghazi in

an increasingly dangerous situation, with violent Islamic extremists gathering there, with events having occurred, attacks on our mission there—two others prior that year. Yet we did not give them the security they needed to protect them, and we did not make the decision that I believe we should have made, since we did not provide them with the security, that we should have closed our mission there. As a result, people really suffered.

We recognize that the congressionally mandated Accountability Review Board at the Department of State has issued a report on the events in Benghazi. I think it was an excellent report. There are other committees of Congress continuing with their own investigations. Each of these will and should make a valuable contribution to our understanding of what happened at Benghazi so that we can take steps to make sure nothing like it ever happens again.

Under the rules of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has a unique mandate to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of governmental agencies, especially when matters that span multiple agencies are involved.

Our report is intended to inform the Senate and the American people about events immediately before, during, and after the attack at Benghazi. In order to contribute most to the public debate, we have chosen to include only unclassified information in this report. We are hopeful that the report can and will make an important contribution to the ongoing discussions about how to better protect our diplomatic personnel abroad.

Our report contains 10 findings and 11 recommendations that we believe can help us better protect our diplomats and others who serve our country, often in very dangerous places. I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the report be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this is probably the last opportunity I will have to do this, to thank the ranking member again for the extraordinary partnership we have had for more than a decade now on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. It is really meaningful to me that we have this last opportunity to do something together, across party lines, that we believe and hope will be in our national interest.

## EXHIBIT 1

FLASHING RED: A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE  
TERRORIST ATTACK AT BENGHAZI

(By Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman and  
Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member)

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOME-  
LAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
December 30, 2012

While our country spent September 11, 2012, remembering the terrorist attacks that took place 11 years earlier, brave Americans posted at U.S. government facilities in

Benghazi, Libya, were fighting for their lives against a terrorist assault. When the fight ended, U.S. Ambassador to Libya John C. (Chris) Stevens and three other Americans were dead and U.S. facilities in Benghazi were left in ruin. We must remember the sacrifice that these selfless public servants made to support the struggle for freedom in Libya and to improve our own national security. While we mourn their deaths, it is also crucial that we learn from how they died. By examining the circumstances of the attack in Benghazi on September 11th, we hope to gain a better understanding of what went wrong and what we must do now to ensure better protection for American diplomatic personnel who must sometimes operate in dangerous places abroad.

We are cognizant that the Congressionally-mandated Accountability Review Board (ARB) of the Department of State has now issued its important and constructive report and that other Congressional committees are investigating the Benghazi attack as well. Each makes significant contributions to our collective understanding of what transpired and what we must do going forward.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC), pursuant to its authority under Rule XXV(k) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Section 101 of S. Res 445 (108th Congress) and Section 12(e) of S. Res 81 (112th Congress), has a unique mandate to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of governmental agencies, especially when matters that span multiple government agencies are involved. Over the years, HSGAC has spent much time and dedicated considerable resources to understanding the challenges inherent in national security interagency relationships, and it is through this lens that we have examined and drawn lessons from the attack in Benghazi.

Since the 112th Congress is drawing to a close, this investigation has necessarily been conducted with a sense of urgency and with focused objectives. Our findings and recommendations are based on investigative work that the Committee has conducted since shortly after the attack of September 11, 2012, including meetings of members and staff with senior and mid-level government officials; reviews of thousands of pages of documents provided by the Department of State, Department of Defense, and the Intelligence Community (IC); written responses to questions posed by the Committee to these agencies; and reading of publicly-available documents.

In the report that follows we provide a brief factual overview of the attacks in Benghazi and then discuss our findings and recommendations.

## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS

The attacks in Benghazi occurred at two different locations: a Department of State "Temporary Mission Facility" and an Annex facility ("Annex") approximately a mile away used by another agency of the United States Government. On September 11th, Ambassador Stevens was in Benghazi, accompanied by two Diplomatic Security (DS) agents who had traveled there with him. Also present were three other DS agents and a Foreign Service Officer, Sean Smith, who were posted at the Temporary Mission Facility ("facility" or "compound"). There were also three members of the February 17 Brigade, a Libyan militia deputized by the Libyan government but not under its direct control, and four unarmed local contract guards protecting the compound.

During the day on September 11th, the Ambassador held several meetings on the compound and retired to his room at approximately 9:00 p.m. local time. About 40 minutes later, several agents and guards